

Application No. 10/713,168
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

2. (Currently Amended) A die apparatus ~~in~~ for a pressing machine, comprising: ~~in which~~

a lower die ~~is securely loaded~~ loadable in a lower die holder fastened to a bolster side of the pressing machine such that the lower die is extractable upwards; and

~~an upper die set is securely held in an upper die holder fastened to a slide side for a pressing operation, characterized in that it comprises: a first arrangement whereby the lower die is held in the lower die holder so that the lower die can be extracted upwards from the lower die wherein below the lower die there is provided~~

a lower die lifting means ~~for lifting~~ mechanism which is provided below the lower die and which is operable to lift up the lower die until it lies higher in position than an upper face of the lower die holder; and

~~a second arrangement whereby the~~ an upper die set which is adapted to be held in the an upper die holder so that the upper die set can be extracted downwards from the upper die holder, wherein the upper die holder is provided with by a stopper means adapted to engage mechanism that is engageable with the upper die

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set to hold the upper die set in place in the upper die holder and adapted to disengage and that is disengageable from the upper die set to allow the upper die set to disengage from the upper die holder such that the upper die set is extractable downwards from the upper die holder; and

an upper die mounting and demounting jig which is adapted to be removably positioned on the raised lower die lifting mechanism after the lower die is removed from the lower die lifting mechanism, such that the upper die mounting and demounting jig lies coaxially with the lower die lifting mechanism.

3. (Currently Amended) A die exchanging method for a pressing machine, ~~characterized in that it comprises the steps of~~ said method comprising:

raising a lower die lifting ~~means~~ mechanism to lift up a
5 lower die in a lower die holder until ~~it~~ the lower die lies higher in position than an upper face of the lower die holder, thereby unloading the lower die from the lower die holder;

then, placing an upper die mounting and demounting jig on the raised lower die lifting ~~means~~ mechanism so that the upper
10 die mounting and demounting jig lies coaxially with the lower die lifting ~~means~~ mechanism;

moving down a slide having an upper die set fastened thereto via an upper die holder, ~~followed by~~ and then placing the upper

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die set on the upper die mounting and demounting jig so that the
15 upper die set lies coaxially with the upper die mounting and
demounting jig;

releasing ~~holding of~~ the upper die set by from the upper die
holder, ~~followed by~~ and then raising the slide to allow the upper
die set to be extracted downwards and thereby unloaded from the
20 upper die holder;

removing the upper die set from the upper die mounting and
demounting jig;

mounting a new upper die set on the upper die mounting and
demounting jig so that the new upper die set lies coaxially with
25 the upper die mounting and demounting jig;

moving down the slide to allow the new upper die set to
engage with the upper die holder, ~~followed by~~ and then fastening
the new upper die set to the upper die holder;

moving up the slide having the new upper die set held by the
30 upper die holder;

removing the upper die mounting and demounting jig from the
raised lower die lifting ~~means~~ mechanism and mounting a new lower
die on the ~~latter~~ lower die lifting mechanism; and

lowering the lower die lifting ~~means~~ mechanism having the
35 new lower die mounted thereon until the ~~latter~~ new lower die is
loaded in the lower die holder.